

INTERVIEW WITH MRS.G.B. LOVERIDGE
May 26, 1976
Conducted by:
Dr. James L. Dodson
- -and- -
Mrs. Karen Sheridan

Interview with Mrs.G.B. Loveridge

- Dodson: This is Dr. Jame L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum. I am about to conduct an interview with Mrs. Daisy Loveridge. Assisting me will be Mrs. Karen Shariden, field deputy in conducting interviews for the Museum. The interview is being conducted at Mrs. Loveridge's home, 8225 Kester, Van Nuys.
- Dodson: I wonder if you could give us your name and tell us how long have you lived in the Valley?
- Loveridge: My name is Daisy Marie Loveridge. Mrs. Gerald B.. My maiden name was Freckling [esp?] and I was born here 54 years ago this past April. And today is the 26th of May, 1976.
- Dodson: That's fine. Thank you. I am sure that you have seen a great many changes in the Valley then during those 54 years. Can you tell us something about your early education in the Valley?
- Loveridge: Well, all of my education was in Van Nuys from kindergarden in Van Nuys elementary through the 12th grade in Van Nuys High School which ended in February of 1939 on graduation. I had six years in grade school and six years in high school.
- Dodson: Was the Van Nuys High School the only high school in the Valley at that time? Or were there any others?
- Loveridge: Oh no, North Hollywood High School was here at that time, San Fernando, Canoga Park...Ah... (I should stop and think; I forgot what was in the league). We have of course the high school in Burbank which was not part of the Los Angerles City School System. However San Fernando High School was. Even though it was in the City of San Fernando it was a Los Angerles City High School.
- Dodson: You mentioned North Hollywood. At that time was it called North Hollywood? Its earliest name was Lankershim but I wonder when its name was changed?
- Loveridge: I don't recall when the name of the town was changed. The high school was always called North Hollywood High School to the best of my knowledge. So whether the town went along with the North Hollywood or how it left the Lankershim name, I don't .. I realy don't know.
- Dodson: Can you tell us what sort of things that you studied? What is the high school emphasized at that time?

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Loveridge: We had a very broad curriculum. My particular interest was in music. I played the violin. I was in the senior and junior high school orchestra, first chair. I played all city junior high school orchestra and all city senior high school orchestra for the full six years, not first chair by any manner or mean there. Those were conducted by the school teachers from the inner city. At that time we have practice those down there what is at that time was called City College on Vermont Ave. So we had to travel into the city once a week to practice. And we gave concerts all over the Southern California area including the Shrine and the Philharmonic.

Dodson: Did you keep up your interest in music. We do have an symphony orchestra in the Valley now I believed, do we not?

Loveridge: Yes, we do. They're excellent one. My interest, yes. I have not continued my playing. I still have my violin which my husband had put into the vacuum, display case for my home because I quit playing. However for about 12 years, it was loaned out to a very promising young man over in East Los Angeles through his junior and senior high school and into his college for a while until he was able to afford his own violin. And he has since gone on to great heights in the music world. I have been wracking my brain for ..a number of days now trying to remember his name and I can't recall it. But I felt that since I wasn't using it, it was put to good use by giving to some body that could afford a violin that was worth while.

Dodson: I think you told us, Mrs. Loveridge, that you have some children of your own and some grandchildren. What would you say would be the contrast if any between the type of education they get... are getting or have gotten and the type you had? Do you see any differences?

Loveridge: The one son went through the, what I called the permissive stage in school. However, having been raised in the city school system and knowing pretty much of what was expected of the child up on graduation. I insisted upon him getting an education and if I felt he wasn't. I was just parked myself in the boy vice principal office and said "Look, the kid's not learning anything let get on the ball". There was a lot of people I believed graduated from our high school that did not deserve their graduation diplomas. Some who would get out of school at this time now would not

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eligible for the certificate for a completion. I don't believe. Then by the time the younger son, there are four years different in the boys' aged. By the time the younger son got into the higher education, he had got into a more realistic program of education where the three R's again being taught and expected to be learned. His education have been.... the boy would agree with us I am sure both of them that what he got out of school was 100% better than what his older brother did.

Dodson: I see, your older brother was there doing a sort of experimental stage.

Loveridge: The older son, yes. Ah...ha..

Dodson: your older son, yes.

Loveridge: Through that stage where progressive or permissive or what ever they want to call it. Where they more or less let them sliced through at their own pace and what they could accumulate was fine and if they didn't grasped let them go any way. And as I say earlier as we started tapping, the younger son had an extremly hight IQ and failed English and math in the nine grade simply because he didn't apply himself. He wasn't interested. He was... called them hyper kenetic now. they had that name then but he finally settle down and he went on put in a year of college before he went in to the service. And he did very well in his high school and his college terms. He was an art major and the curriculum at the time I went to school and when about the time he got back in...he got into high school, it got back to the same basics where they stress college preparation whether or not you were planning to go on to college. You still got the basic college prep.. There were, of course, secretarial courses and the shop courses for those who didn't have the ability to go into the college prep.. But they counseled more to the college prep. for those people who has the intelligence to accept it which I approve of. I think it should be done more.

Dodson: Yes, so you took that type of course then ? The college prep.?

Loveridge: Yes, I had the college prep. course.

Dodson: Are your grand children old enough to be in school now?

Loveridge: Two girls, my oldest son children, the older daughter is going on thirteen and in junior high school. The

younger one is going on twelve is still in grade school. Both very intelligent young ladies and doing very well on school.

Dodson: Well, do you see any difference between what they're studying and what you fell you study in elementary school? Could you contract it many way?

Loveridge: I really don't keep track too closely. I ..I tried to be a mother-in-law who is a grandma. Of course, I intereted in their grade. I am interested in their activities but as far as what they actually do in school. Their mother and their dad approved so I figured it all right. Now the grandson isn't quite three yet so he isn't in school yet. He is still home and living with a loving mother and a very loving dad. He enjoys life to the fullest as any three years old boy would.

Dodson: Do you remember the name of any particular teachers that you fell that make an impression on you that in any way influence your life?

Loveridge: Well, one of the dearest women that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing was my kindergarden teacher. Mrs. Lilian Van Winkle [sp?]. I am still very close friends with her. I see her frequently. She is now 91 years old, lives here in Van Nuys. Our principal at grade school was a very aptly name woman, Mrs. Sterns [sp?]. In latter years I realize she wasn't as stern as she seem to be when I was a grade schooler and she is very authoritative, kept her school under a very tight rein and had a very good staff of teachers. Made sure that she have a staff of teachers that she could depend on teaching her children as she called them. I am remembering Mrs. Tinker [sp?] and I don't remember whether I am first or second grade but I got all what amounted to A's. They grade one, two, three, four in those days. And they also graded you on effort. And I got all 1's which was the highest in the category except in effort and I got a 5 which was a failer and I cried all the way home. And told my mother Mrs.Tinker was picking on me. She ruined my report card. And my mother once questioned her. She said she doesn't have to try. Why, I can't give her one in effort when she isn't try to do anything better. So they passed me on to the second grade from the first grade and fourth grade I when to summer school for six weeks and when on to the fifth grade. So I closeed a gap of a year in my grade school, which I didn't like by the time I got to high school because I was a year younger than every and I could do the things that the

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kids in high school could do. And my mother was prude, I guess you'd call her that time. And I wasn't allow to go out and do the things that high school kids are doing that I was in the same class with.

Dodson: I see, so you were sort of discriminated against, you felt?

Loveridge: By my mother. And then when I got to high school I had dispiste my outward appearance now. I basicly have always basicly for a very shy person. And I got poor grade because of it in school, in high school especially because your writen or class room paper work. And I couldn't give an oral exame... oral report in class. There is no way I could open my mouth without having all my teeth clinged to the roof, and my tongue swallow. So a very charming woman named Catherine [sp?] Mc Millan who was a drama teacher who was also my councelor that year in my 11th grade and she put me into her speech class and then in my senior years into drama class. And she taugh me how to stand up in front of people and looked at them and say " I know what I know and I am going to tell you all about it". And she gave me such confidence in myself than so much basic public speaking and how to handle yourself as a public speaker that I don't hesitate to talk to anyone now, never have.

Dodson: Oh, good. Sometime I run across that with some of my students. And I was always pointed out to them that they know more about that particular subject than anyone listening to them, so they can speak freely.

Loveridge: Well, this is true. This is very true.

Dodson: Of course I also tell them that there is a lectern in front of them and if their knees are knocking together, no body can see it any way.

Loveridge: That sounds like Mrs. Mc Millan. Last but not least, the epitome of the lady who by the time graduated from high school was the principal of Van Nuys high school. Her name was Donna Hubbard. She was one of the original teacher at Van Nuys high school back in 1911 or '12 some place along in there. She became the girls' vice principal and held that position for many, many, many years. Not that she wasn't offered principalships elsewhere. I don't know how many she was offered. I know that she turn everyone down because her loved was Van Nuys high School and if she couldn't have that principalships she didn't want any.

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And the day I distinctly remember the assembly we had out on the field of the high school and Mr. Herbert Wood [sp?] was relinquishing the principal to Miss Hubbard and the entire student body stood up and cheered for a full five minutes when he announced that your new principal is going to be Donna H. Hubbard. I think that probably one of the biggest thrill in my life.

Dodson: Is she still living here in the Valley?

Loveridge: No, she never made her home in the Valley. She had a home over in Hollywood Hill, she and her mother. She was a maiden lady and she had her mother living with her and they lived over, I guess it would be called the Silverlake District. And she passed on oh quite a number of year ago. But she was very active with the retired teachers here in the Valley even after she left. after she retired from the City School System.

Dodson: Was the Van Nuys high school located as the same place it's in now?

Loveridge: The site of Van Nuys High School is the same as it was originally in the same four or six square block area it is now. The original building was demolished after 1933 Earthquake.

Dodson: That's what we called the Long Beach Earthquake.

Loveridge: Long Beach Earthquake. And this was the time I was transitioning from grade school into junior high school at Van Nuys High School. So we had classes on campus in the quadrangle in tents class rooms.

Dodson: Was the original high school damaged by that earthquake?

Loveridge: Yes, the Van Nuys.. both Van Nuys High and Van Nuys elementary original administration buildings were both destroyed... deliberately destroy. They were damaged to an extent that they could not be used by the children and had to be torned down and rebuilt so the building you see now at Van Nuys Elementary and Van Nuys High School were built after 1933 Earthquake.

Dodson: I see. How long did you meet in tents then?

Loveridge: Oh, probably about 4 years.

Dodson: Is that right? Then most of your high schooling was in the tents situation.

Loveridge: Well, My was junior high school. 7th, 8th and 9th grade and part of the 10th grade was in the ... They had wooden floors and wood up like the army... old army tents with the wood up desk kind and the tents over. But it was a little noisey with the pile driver 's going all the time building this new building just about 100 yards away from your teacher trying to scream over the noise.

Dodson: Was it pretty chilly during the winter in those tents?

Loveridge: Got a little cool but got even hotter in the summertime. Ha...If any one who fit in the valley when school started in September that usually our hottest year ..since part of the year and we walk in under that canvas into a class and I don't think we got very much accomplished than a lot of classes that we had to have. Of course there still be building on campus. We didn't had to have all of our classes in the tents. By that time we have the auditorium which named after Donna Hubbard and her honer, the home economic building, the shop building is incidently what the original shop building was built there. And they added couple other buildings while they were adding the new adminitration building. But we did have some of the better... better buildings withstood the earthquake.

Dodson: I see. Now, we knew the earthquake have been felt up here. But this is the first time any one had told us about this tent situation at the Van Nuys High School. So this is a piece of news for us.

Loveridge: Oh, it was charming.

Dodson: Can you tell us whether any other buildings were especially damaged in Van Nuys by that quake?

Loveridge: There was a lot of minor damage. We... the one incident that I remember about it but I don't even remember what date or day it was on. But because we have so many earthquakes in this area. And at that time we were living in a not too substantial frame house. Mother's orders were always once it started rocking and rolling, get out of the house which is neither here nor there. And we all out in the yard and suddenly she missed my brother and the tree ... we had a walnut grove here... and the trees were just swaying back and forth and mother said, " Where is Jim?" and one of my sister said " Well, he was in the bedtub". And she said," Go get him". And this was still, you can fell the ground moving so the sister went back and get him and dragging him out screaming. He said " I

got no clothes on". Ha.... Not a soul around for miles. We have four neighbors at that time. The closes of which was a block over here and mile over there. But he was worried because he was out there without his clothes on during the earthquake. But as far as buildings are concerned. The city hall, the Van Nuys City Hall had..well had it dedication that same year and it was in the finishing stages of being finish inside. All the construction was done. And there wasn't any damage to whatsoever. And I think it twelve or thirteen stories high. There was a brand new building... built to what was then earthquake code. And we were all very proud that our brand new city hall was going to be able to stay there. But as far as other buildings are concerned, I don't know of any that was torn down.

Dodson: Was your house damaged?

Loveridge: Oh, no. I don't think ..I don't remember ever to have anything do to the house. We lost, you know crockery and plates and dolls like that mother had on the shelf. We never had any damage substantial structure damage to the house. We're on sort of sandy soil here in this area and it was just.. even the big earthquake in '71, I wasn't home but my husband told me it was like a rolling motion here rather than a sharp jolt where it just fell like the house was just kind of rolling over ocean waves. And this is due I guess to the subsoil and the type of soil we sit on here in this area. The sandy composition of the soil. We was just desert before the water came in.

Dodson: Yes, I imagined that people in different areas did fell that in different ways. I got it as a sharp jolt rather than a rolling motion at the Crescinta Valley.

Loveridge: Sun Valley, you see you're up closer to the foothills where you are on a more of a rocky strata. We are on a same position here floodwise with all the flood we have in the Valley over the years before they put in a beautifull flood control they have now. We be sitting here and we knew it rained a lot but we didn't have any water laying around. There wasn't any water on our street or runing down the street. The water was over on the wash which is about a quater .. two blocks away from us here, Pacoima Wash. And you get up a mile from us and you were in water up over your hubcaps, or even up over your doors of your car. (I understand) Dr. Dodson said. We have a little knoll here and it all run away from us.

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Dodson: I've seen some rather amazing pictures of Van Nuys Blvd. during those flood areas. Do you remember those? How much water there was?

Loveridge: Oh yes, ha... I paddled my canoe down.. as recently as the last ten years before they finally got the big channel taken care of. And the storm drains put in Roscoe and Van Nuys Blvd. through Panorama City. The thing I remember about the floods was the wash went through Van Nuys. And when it got out of the wash and into the townside of Van Nuys. It ended up on Tyrone Ave. So Tyrone Ave. all winter had bridges across it so the people who lived on the eastside of town could get across Tyrone when it rained to go to school, business or whatever. and Tyrone was just closed for the winter. So when the rains came and the wash ran, they had some way to get across it.

Dodson: I am glad you're reassuring here, Mrs. Sheridan here. Since she is a recent arrival from Texas, she may be worrying whether she gotten into a flooded area and an earthquake prone area. Of course I have to tell her in today's paper they have a bad hurricane in Mineral Wells, Texas. So she would fell better that she wasn't in Texas during the last 24 hours.

Loveridge: For anyone who might hear this tape, having been raised here or born here, I went to the '52 to the Tehachapi Quake when all the tranformers in the Valley spelt doom because we thought the atomic bomb had come. And the '33 Long Beach Quake as it was called, and the '71 disaster in Sylmar. I'll take any of those as bad as they were to one hurricane of the Florida coast or one tornado in my husband's home state of Iowa. I can.. I can take any earthquake that comes along.

Dodson: I think we all become accustomed to our parcular type of disasters. Than we are a little more worry about the other fellow's type.

Loveridge: When my husband told me that he saw the result of a tornado in Iowa where it plucked the chicken feathers of the chicken and stucked the chicken feathers into a tellephone poll. I said " I'll take my earthquakes and if you ever get in to one after you moved back to California, I think he would too". And he agreed now. He said," I will take the earthquake to the tornado.

Dodson: The Tehachapi Quake, I don't think I fell to any degree. Was that fell strongly here in the Valley?

Loveridge: Strong enough that at that time we were still building

our home and we were sleeping in the living room. We have not built our bedrooms on. Our bed was on rollers and we didn't have carpeting. We just have bare floors and the bed came away from the wall and hit the wall. I would say a number of probably ten times. We were out of it the second time it gots away from the wall. And that was happend during the night, early morning, still dark and you look out the window and it just looked like the whole Valley was a blaze with what look to us as Peal Harbor, having been there. And my husband kept saying that they dropped an atomic bomb. I know they haven't. I said, " Get away from the window, get some place you support to be in the back of the house with your head under the table or something". And it was quite a while before he realized that he was in a real earthquake. That was the biggest one he had been in up till then.

Dodson: You weren't in the Valley at time of the Sylmar Quake then you say?

Loveridge: It's in the Valley. I was in North Hollywood Doctors Hospital having had major surgery the day before with the pump in my stomach and a tube in my arm feeding me and all kind of tubes and all kind of equipment coming and going out of there at six o'clock in the morning.

Dodson: But then you didn't...you weren't conscious of the quake then especially?

Loveridge: Oh, I was very conscious of it and I was tried to reensure the panic nurses that it's only a earthquake. They thought the truck had hit the hospital of the freeway. Ha...ha... That hospital staffs, the young ladies from... they recruited from out of the states. Quite a few South American people, quite a few Swedish and Scandianvian company... countries are represented there on their nursing staff. And they had not been through even a minor, let a lone a major one.

Dodson: Where is that hospital located?

Loveridge: It's on Riverside Dr. just right close at Coldwater Canyon.

Dodson: I see, I think it's true that in the Valley the further south you went, the less you felt that Sylmar Quake. So they wouldn't get nearly as badly as the northen part of the Valley.

Loveridge: No, the... there was.. there was a rumble. There was a lot of noise in the hospital because the pharmacy was

completely destroyed, bottles and glass crashing. And there was panic patients that had not been through earthquake before. Fortunately, the young lady who was in the same room with me was also a native. She and I was fairly calm about it. But as far as comparing to what my husband said happened at home here that morning. My niece was here from the Virgin Island living with us. And my husband tried three different times to get out of bed and three different times got knock back into bed just to get across the hall to reassure her that everything was all right. And she very blandly said, " Well, it just a earthquake. That's what mother said they should feel like". And she was not excited at all about it so my husband said, " If you are not excited, we won't get excited either". He said...she said, " You better called Aunt Daisy and make sure that she is all right". He said, " Well, I am sure if she is not, they'll let us know". And that all there was as far as at home was concern. We lost nothing other than couple of vases of the window sill. And I have a very large dent in my urn up there.. fell of the mantle. As far as any major damage, we had no damage to the house and very minor breakage all... empus [?]. What happened was my glass vase that he said got broken happen to be sterling on crystal vase had given to us for our silver wedding anniversary. I didn't let on to him that it broked my heart. I said, " Well, we only lost a vase and and an antique cup, I guessed we're pretty lucky".

Dodson: I think we have no damage at the College at all. Of course, we are further south than this house 5800 Fulton but to the my best of my knowllege, we have no damage.

Dodson: I believed you had a question, Keren?

Karen: Mrs. Loveridge, could you tell me something about the social life of the teenagers of your day?

Loveridge: Well, would you believe Hide and Go Seek and Kick The Cat. Ha.... we lived out in the country. this was country in those day, not quite three miles from Van Nuys. And on Roscoe Blvd. between Sepulveda and Ros...Van Nuys Blvds, there were about six families, the closest of which lived across the street from us on the two corners of Kester. They were Mrs. Sucky [sp?] and Mrs. Mallet [sp?] were sisters. So they were related families. And we had a group of boys in the Boise [sp?] next door. We had tomato fights with them. Ha... As far as the social life was concerned, a good portion of it was through our church youth groups. We

community church here in Sepulveda and she changed and started taking us there. Well, that ultimately became the Methodist Church which at that time met in the Woman's Club House in Sepulveda, only was called Misson Acres in those days. It wasn't Sepulveda then, I don't know when that change came. And then the Methodist Church brand out, went out on it own and purchased the property on Rayen Street where it now had their church, recently had a mortgage burning by the way.

Dodson: Was that the street called Misson Acres or the area?

Loveridge: The town ... the town was called Misson Acres.

Dodson: I see.

Loveridge: And the Woman's Club House was used for everything, weddings, funerals, church services, whether Methodist or Jewish or what. Who ever wanted to hire the hall, got the use of it. Was one of the few community buildings in the area at the time. But we also were trained to respect and uphold the law and her one way of teaching us that was to take us to court and sit in the court of law. And go through municipal court or a supreme court hearing, if she had us downtown on the date... by down town I mean Los Angeles.. on the day the supreme court was in session...I mean the superior court not the supreme court. But we make many trips down to the municipal court in Van Nuys just for the run of the mill violations , driving violations, intoxication, Peeping Toms and we watched justice and how it was done. And this was mother way of teaching us.. just what goes on in the world.

Dodson: May I asked whether you used the same system with your children, Mrs. Loveridge?

Loveridge: I encouraged my children both to believe that everyone had his right in this earth. I am proud of both my boys in that they respect other races, other creeds, other religions. I have the privilege of saying that my older son married a converted Catholic in the Methodist Church with the Mormon best man. Ha... So he has a pretty good background that way. I never took them to court. I wished I had. However, I know on several occasions when my younger son went in strickly on his own to see how things went in the courts of law. He was a inquisitive young man. But they were always taught that their home was opened to any of their friends.

Dodson: I'd like to come back to Karen's first question about

had what the Methodist Church called Upward Lead in those days. I don't know what they have the difference name for it now. But we had at least once a month get together at one of the other churches in the Valley ... one of the other Methodist Churches. We had inter denominational get together, conventions and campouts. A great sport was going to the beach. Santa Monica Beach was a great hangout for the Valley people. And we went to rollerskating rinks and I must say that this was a very little done in the Valley because we didn't have this thing in the Valley. We had to go to the city or into Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Karen: I think it's interesting that you would have inter denominational parties. I don't think that's done. I can't... I don't know any convention like that. I think that's interesting.

Loveridge: Oh sure, we have the Baptists and the Missionary Churches and all the young people in the Valley. There weren't many of us. We just took one church. There wouldn't be enough to have a convention.

Karen: I think that's great. Ha... I think that's what we needed is to respect each other belief. That's not something that too much any more.

Loveridge: Well, I..I couldn't agree with you more. My mother was a very Christian woman and she taught her children to believe everyone were put on this earth for a purpose. It didn't matter what their creeds, their color, their background. And she made a point, I am sure everyone of us, I know through me and my brother to attend a church not of our denomination at least once in our life time. I have been to Catholic Masses and I have been to the Synagogue down on Wilshire Blvd. to regular church services... regular services not to something.. not a funeral or wedding or youth group get together. My mother would just pack us up and say we're going to go in and see how the Jewish people have as service on Saturday or we're going to Mass over at St. Elizabeth across from the high school in the morning. You all have to get up a little earlier. As a matter fact, until my brother was born, we four older children went Sunday school and church at the Presbyterian Church in Van Nuys. My mother was Scottish and she had been raised in the Presbyterian Church and that where she felt she wanted to raise her children. And after the fifth child, she decided there was too much trouble getting five kids ready to go in to Van Nuys every Sunday. So there was a little

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community church here in Sepulveda and she changed and started taking us there. Well, that ultimately became the Methodist Church which at that time met in the Woman's Club House in Sepulveda, only was called Mission Acres in those days. It wasn't Sepulveda then, I don't know when that change came. And then the Methodist Church brand out, went out on its own and purchased the property on Rayen Street where it now had their church, recently had a mortgage burning by the way.

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Dodson: I'd like to come back to Karen's first question about recreation in the Valley. Do you see changes between the type of recreation you had and the type that your children and grandchildren have had?

Loveridge: I think today's recreation is more commercial. It's not just for fun.

Dodson: They're more after going to Disneyland and you were more out to make your own fun. Is that so?

Loveridge: Right..right, we get together...on a summer evening as I say play base ball and kick the can or hide and go seek or good roller skate after they paint brush the boulevard right down Roscoe Blvd was two land then. And it's the great challenge to climb the pine tree and see who get their mark up on the top of the pine tree. These were the sort of things that you made your own recreation. There wasn't any money....extra money to go.. had we have it even to go to Disneyland type places or it was a treat for us to go to the pike [sp?] at Long Beach and maybe to go on two or three rides a piece because money was hard to come by in the depression and fortunately we didn't. First, I don't think we hurt during the depression. I guess we were poor but didn't know it.

Dodson: Most of the people we talked about or talked to here in the Valley and I asked about the depression said that they didn't feel they were too much injured by it. So I wonder if it didn't strike as hard here in the Valley as it did in some industrialized areas?

Loveridge: Well, now as far as the Valley was concerned, you have to start to think that there was the only thing really going on in the Valley at that time was farming. We didn't have industrial areas in the Valley. We have very small business community in Van Nuys or each in the little communities where now we have a megapolis of a lot of towns all crowded together in one great sprawling Valley. When you left Van Nuys to go to North Hollywood, you got out of town and went in the country for 4 or 5 miles, and then went in to North Hollywood. And to go to Canoga Park was like a day's journey. We went in from here, we would go to Los Angeles in the PE (the old Pacific Electric Red Car). Or mother would drive us when automobiles became popular and she learned how to drive. My dad never work in the Valley other than having a chicken ranch, which we all ran because he was never home. He worked for his living for the May Co. and that time the May

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Co. had one store, Broadway 8th and Hill. And then many years after I was born, he was transferred down to their warehouse which was Jefferson and Grand. And he drove...when while we were at the PE for many years, but he drove that every day. He leaved home at 6:30 in the morning and not get home until 6:30 at night. And fortunately for him and us...(the clock make the bong sound) he never was layoff during the depression. I am sure that he probably took several paycuts. But we never wanted. We always had food on the table. We always had clean clothes and wasn't always new. Being the fourth girl in the family, I always got the leftovers. My brother always had new clothes, he was the only boy. But I don't recall needing or wanting something that we didn't ultimately get. But I don't mean the...ultimate end bicycle or somethings are being usually second hand. But we didn't have anything that we didn't have any thing. The things we have were ample and we ate and if we want something beside chicken to eat, we just dressed a few chickens on Saturday and sold to the neighbors and bought.. got enough money and go by a piece of beef. It sort of barter system going on.

Dodson: It have been my impression from the people that we interviewed that probably the situation wasn't as bad here at the Valley as in some other parts of the United States.

Loveridge: No, I am sure it wasn't. I am sure that we didn't have the deep depression they had in the cities of the East of the Mississippi, Chicago and the industrial areas of Indiana, Pennsylvania having read history of that period. Now I know that we didn't have low point where you have breadlines and unemployment for not only months but years and...

Dodson: You have no recollection of anything like a breadline in the Valley... or anything like that.

Loveridge: I don't recall ever seeing a breadline. I didn't know what a breadline was until I read about it many years later. There were people selling apples on the corner because we didn't feel the depression as a family. There may have been the people in the Valley that I didn't know that you know got take away from their jobs because of the type of work that they were in. Let me say the farm lands continued as a farm land because everybody had to eat even if they have to give the food away. The farm lands kept going and at least kept those people occupied.

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Dodson: Now, this interview is taking place at your home at 8225 Kester. Can you tell us what it would been like when you were a child in this exact same area?

Loveridge: Right where we were sitting was a bean field. Ah, about I say 15 feet North of me would have been the end of the chicken hours of which was one of our jumping of places into the bean straw. Ha.. Between our South border which my parents own 5 acres here to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks which about a mile away . And to the West, to the Pacoima Wash was a asparagus patch which a family of Chinese people grew, harvested and lived off of. And Mr. Loy [sp?] who was the father... in the Chinese custom, they used different name. His son William View [sp?] ran the place and they go back to China about once every three years and come back. They were not allowed to bring their wives at that time. They were never allowed to become citizens, which I never could understand. I don't know whether Mr. View ever did become a citizen. He's still living in the area. He lives up on Kester by Parthenia Street. He did bring his sons to the country as they got old enough to work on the field. His wife, his mother and one sister I believe ... the last I knew his wife was still living in Hong Kong. She had gotten out of Red China with her mother. His mother had died in Red China before... just after the Red China take over. But they went to Hong Kong as opposed to going to Taiwan. And he is now the cook in a Chinese restaurant. At least the last time I talk to him.. he was. At least, my husband still does the plumbing for him. He wouldn't have anybody but him do his plumbing. But he moved his little house off the rented property, he didn't own the land. When the developers came in to build the track of homes that now exit behind us. He took his house and had it moved up to the lot that he purchase up on Kester. As far as the rest of the area concern to the east of us.. just east of the Van Nuys Blvd.. was the Panorama Ranch which was the five thousand acre dairy ranch. And getting back to Karen's question about recreation. That was our swimming spot in the summer time. We just go over and jump in the water and Trough where they water the animals. Mother allowed us to go down a couple times a week to meet dad at the P.E...half a mile away and walk home with him. So we just walked down in our bathing suits and wait in the swimming... trough. When the P.E. came, we wrapped our towel, put it on our shoulder walked home and had supper. We had one swimming pool in the area they called Crystal Plunge down on Kester Ave. just north of Sherman Way. But cost 25 cents a piece to get in the place. But

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with seven kids mother can't afford that so we swam in the.. trough where the cows got their water. Wonder we didn't all die.

Karen: What about when you started dating. What age did you start dating? and what kink of dates did you have?

Loveridge: Here, we go back to my mother being a prude. I was always had a chaperon date. I went out, either my older sister or my mother had to go with me because I was too young to go out with boys. And we had movie. We had the old Van Nuys theater what we called the Flea House down south into town.

Karen: What was the Flea House?

Loveridge: It was a movie house.

Karen: Oh.

Loveridge: It was the cheap movie in town. We had the Van Nuys...

Karen: Where did they get such a name as flea House?

Loveridge: Because you came home with fleas. Ha...ha..

Dodson: Well, that certainly answers Karen's question. Ha.....

Loveridge: And literally had there are fleas in the place so we called it the Flea House. The name... the name of the thing escapes me. I ...

Dodson: Could you tell us where it was located?

Loveridge: It was between Sylvan and Erwin on the east side of Van Nuys Blvd. It only in the past two, three, maybe four years since they put the post office in that area.

Dodson: Oh, it's about where the new post office is.

Loveridge: Yes, right on that same block. I think they called it the Realtor [sp?] or something like that. We always called it the Flea House. And it was...As our dates took us there by later teens when I was allowed to date, double date..Oh yea if I go in a double date, it was all right, if she approved of the other girl. And that's how I met my husband. A fellow that I had dated with my mother's permission and my sister going along with her boy friend to the picture show . My sister was eight years older than I am. So she was old enough to take care of me.

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Karen: Right.

Loveridge: She and her boyfriend. He brought a fellow up. he was in the Navy. but she had met him at the Methodist Convention one year in Paso Robles. So he brought a boy friend up and they needed a date to go dancing. So mother said " Well, if you can't find anyone else, I let Daisy go with you". So I went with this buddy of his. Oh, I suppose we dated for six or eight months off and on when he decided to come up from Long Beach. But then he met my girl friend here and fell madly in love with her. And he was riding his motorcycle back to the base one night and he hit the one and only freight train that came through Van Nuys in early hours of the morning. So he had to get somebody to bring him out to see his girlfriend. And now he brought my husband to be. So we double dated with Lorraine and Harley and ultimately got married.

Dodson: Now do you feel that the present freedom in those things had gone too far.

Loveridge: Yes, I am sorry I am a prude.

Dodson: You feel it's better that the way....

Loveridge: I don't approved of the new morality. I think it's coming back to the..getting married, making a home, having children in wedlock. I've seen more of it now than I say five years ago. I never approved of it. I would never tell someone that I think they 're wrong. It's none of my business as long as they don't encroach upon my way of life, I won't encroach on theirs. But I don't have to condone it. In my own mind I never did.

Dodson: Then you feel when you were younger, the state of morality, as you see it in the Valley, was higher than it is now? There had been a change that our standards socially are lower?

Loveridge: Considerable, I ...having been involved not only in the Valley but being in the orchestras in the city and knowing people from all walks.. income groups and all types of families in the orchestra from the lowest income group to the best families of the Valley city school area. It just wasn't done. Anyone who had low morals was an outcast. And I was raised that way. My mother was very strict about how we raised our children. My mother got very mellow in her old age, I must admit. But I think..I would rather see it where

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we go back to the old way of doing things, the normal date, getting acquainted, engaged and get married and stay married.

Dodson: Now, you said your mother always required a chaperon. Was this particularly your mother's idea or was it common throughout the Valley? Did most mothers required chaperons on dates?

Loveridge: Most of the girls, anybody under 16 if they went any place, they either had to go to a school affairs where there were teachers and/ or parents or church affair where there were older people, grown people who were in charge. And when you got there you stayed there. And when it's over, you left and you went home. There wasn't any mamby pamby [sp?] up on Mullholand Dr.. Those girls ..those girls and those fellows were..they weren't good people as far as the way we were raised. And that's the way I was raised and I tried to raise my children that way. And both married and had children. They don't live in sin as mother would have called it. I didn't consider...I don't ..I won't use it as far as my own expression is concern. I don't condone what was going on in a very permissive society, the communes. The group sexual situations. But as I said, I wouldn't tell them they can't do it.

Dodson: One of the thing that surprised some of my students the most is discovering narcotics and particularly marijuana was practically unknown some years ago. Usually they take the attitude that I just didn't know people using them and I don't know what am I talking about. What would be your impression?

Loveridge: Booze was the problem with young people when I was a kid. I don't know what is... I can't tell you when I first heard about drugs but it was through PTA after my children were in school.

Dodson: But you didn't you know anyone actually used drugs when you were in school?

Loveridge: Oh no, I didn't know.. I don't know that they existed. I don't know that they were available. They probably were but I was not may aware of it. We knew people in school especially in high school. They thought it was funny to have a bottle in their car out in the parking lot and go out to have a drink it at break time or at brunch or at lunch. But as far as drugs were concern, I don't recalled there was any discussion about it in school or out side of school, even in my youth group church.

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Dodson: This is in line with my own experiences. Of course I went to school in Colorado, but I never heard of marijuana, never heard of anybody who ever used it and it seems so hard now for our students to understand this..

Loveridge: That it was not always there.

Dodson: That it wasn't always there because it so common now.

Loveridge: Well, as I said my first real thought about drugs was when my oldest son was in probably the 8th grade in junior high school and I was very active in PTA all the way through school both the boys. And we had member of our Los Angeles Police Department come out and gave us a demonstration on marijuana. He graduated from high school in 1960 and so this was back in the early '50s, mid '50s when that's happened. And that..that recent history compared when you were talking about when I was in school in the '30s. And having an older sister who had two daughters, we saw both sides. She saw the boys side of the growing up picture. I saw the girls' side through her eyes. And we both discussed this not too long ago. How did the kids get in this drug bit. Our kids never had it. The kids they ran around with never talked drugs or discussed drugs or had to be warn against drugs. Where did it come from suddenly? Was it a sudden thing or was it suddenly start to grow into our society and became a very big ogre and that's what it is. It a monster that's gotten out of hand.

Dodson: I don't known the answer on that. It just know that it was completely unknown when I was in school.

Loveridge: Oh, we didn't come up with any answer either between the two of us. We just sitting and discussing it. We had heard some blurb the night before on TV about some large cache of marijuana having been dump out on the desert some place.

Dodson: But you feel drinking was something of a problem?

Loveridge: I don't know that it was a problem or it was just something else, a thing to do. You were somebody if you have a nerve to go out and have a drink with the kids in your class.

Dodson: What was the attitude toward smoking cigarettes?

Loveridge: They were no, no from the word go. Here I sit with one of my hand all the time. I started to smoke for a harbor day. I never forget it.

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Dodson: But you didn't do it when you were in school?

Loveridge: Oh, God forbid. My mother would have kill me. Ha... she could smell me all the way from Van Nuys Blvd. if I had smoke in my breath. Ha... I didn't smoke in front of my mother until probably 15 years just before she die. Ha... She knew I smoked. Then.. even when she came to my home, I wouldn't smoke in my own home in front of my mother because she didn't approve of it. And that how ingrained it was in my background, my training.

Dodson: I imagine there were pretty strong rules in the high school against smoking. Wasn't there when you were there?

Loveridge: Oh yes, And it wasn't hard to tell when someone was smoking because you didn't have the enormous number of kids on campus that you do now. And if you walked by the rest room, you could smell it, smell it right now. As there were six teachers there within the three minutes of one passing that rest room to find out who been in there and who wasn't and where they go and which direction did they go. And they were in there... they were in the boys' or girls' vice principal office which ever case might be within minutes. I think they literally went around and sniffed mouths and desks around the rest room where they smell the smoke. They just didn't do it. It wasn't done.

Dodson: well, do you think that was preferable to our more liberal attitude on these things today?

Loveridge: As far as the smoking or the drugs?

Dodson: Well, as far as the smoking is concerned, I think we all opposed to the drugs.

Loveridge: Ah, I am still opposed to teenagers smoking on campus. I think this morning's Green Sheet has a piece in it by some young man who was a non-smoker and I could see his view point. Set aside a place for the kids on campus who want to smoke so they don't all congregate in the rest room and the kids that don't smoke had to go in and inhale the smoke that's in there. However, I don't know when the law were rescinded but when my kids were in high school, there was a law on the books that forbade anyone grownup or students to smoke on campus. I, as a grownup individual, couldn't not go on campus in any city school in the L.A. City School District and smoke a cigarette legally. Once I walked across that

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line from the side walk to the school ground it would against the law to smoke on that campus. And I have.. I was may never aware, I not aware when that law was rescinded.

Dodson: I am a little vague on that. I think the law is still on the statute book actually. But I am not quite sure what the situation is.

Loveridge: It's not being upheld.

Dodson: We've asked you about a number of things. Can you tell us your impressions of .. you weren't probably conversant with World War I at all. Ha...

Loveridge: No, ha...

Dodson: Do you remember your impression of the outbreak of World War II here in the Valley? What it was like?

Loveridge: In the Valley I couldn't tell you. I wasn't here. I had been married in the August that year. And in October I went to Honolulu. I have a very, very vivid recollection of December 7, 1941 because the shrapnel were falling on my roof. The one thing about..I known about the Valley was I wasn't able to get in communication with my family.

Dodson: Well, of course strictly speaking Pearl Harbor hasn't a connection with the Valley but it's interesting that you were there on December 7th.

Loveridge: Well, that was the fact that I was..we were made. we were made aware in the island that there had been an attempted invasion of the Los Angeles area and naturally I was concern. My family was here and I couldn't .. there was no way to get out. It took a week before they any phone call and/or cablegram to go out.

Dodson: Actually, I don't think there ever was any invasion or anything like that.

Loveridge: No, when you're 2,400 miles across the ocean, you can think of the most horrible thoughts having seen they come in. As an example they announced over the radio that we were at war with the enemy and my husband look at me and he just said " We don't have any enemies" but they were sure dropping bombs on Pearl Harbor. I came home.. they shipped me back in April. I was here oh about a month, maybe six weeks and my husband's ship came into San Francisco.

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Dodson: He was in the Navy, was he?

Loveridge: Yes, he was aboard heavy cruiser, the San Francisco which was in dry dock .. on Pearl Harbor Day. And they came in San Francisco for a couple days just for minor repairs and some recreation for the fellows and then they were heading out for the Pacific. I went up there for two days with him and I went...he insisted I go back to Iowa. I was expected my first child by then. He said " I want you to get off the coast" so I came back home, packed up what I had and went back to Iowa, stay there until November. But I wasn't here very much of the time during World War II. Whenever the ship was in I was there...whether San Diego, Seattle, Portland, Maine, New York wherever..The ship put into port, I was there. So I didn't see too much of the impact of World War II as far as the Valley itself is concerned. I known when those time when I come home, be around there were tremendous amount of service personal in the Valley. They had a large contingent of Air Force people over at Lockheed and here at Van Nuys Airport as well.

Dodson: Were there any military camps in the Valley during the War?

Loveridge: Oh, yes. they had setups over Lockheed Airport. There were a very large Air Force contingency over there and a group at Van Nuys Airport. They also had where silos are now on the rims of the Valley. They had encampment of small groups completely encircling the Valley and the city, up on the mountain tops. I just looked outside I assumed (?). But as far as being here and seeing it what effect it had on the Valley, the economy or what ever, I don't have any remember.

Dodson: I see, so you didn't actually live in the Valley then to any degree during the war?

Loveridge: No, I was traveling wherever I could be with my husband. Just come through to say hi to mom and dad and on my way again.

Dodson: I imagine he wasn't in port then very long at a time, was he?

Loveridge: The longest period of time was when we went to Seattle. He left the San Francisco after the Battle of Guadalcanal when the ship was shot up. He came back to San Francisco and he was transferred to a new destroyer. And then they went to San Diego on a shakedown cruise. And he went to the East Coast. And

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about 4 months later, I went back to Boston.. Their home port was Boston. And he was on convoy duty a lot across the Atlantic in and out... Boston to England and back. Their ship escorted F.D.R. to Bermuda on his.. one of his trip to the Middle East, waited for him down there and came back to the States. But it was in and out either New York, Boston or Portland, Maine. So whenever the ship...I made home at Boston whenever the ship came in one of the other ports. He just would let me go to Norfolk, Virginia. He didn't like the town, so he wouldn't let me go down there. Ha....

Dodson: Did you moved back to the Valley when the war was over?

Loveridge: Unha, he had his last year in the Navy. He spent at San Diego at the Naval Repair Base and after his discharge in May, 1946, we came back up to the Valley. The folks gave us the lot that we're sitting on here now. And we started building our home and we lived here ever since.

Dodson: So this lot was a part of the chicken ranch they had originally, is that right?

Loveridge: Right, this and the retirement home where my sister, Mrs. Porter, lives was my parents retirement home. Fronting on Roscoe Blvd. is all gone to apartments, of course. The back half which we called the South Forty when we were kids. But the back half of the five acres had all been developed into private homes. She and I are the only two there still living on part of the original property.

Dodson: I see, originally the property did extend clear to Roscoe?

Loveridge: Ah ha, there the lot was 620 feet deep from..count the Roscoe Blvd. and about 265 feet wide fronting on Roscoe.

Dodson: What were you regarded as the greatest change in the Valley during your lifetime? What has impressed you the most?

Loveridge: well, I have to say your.. your outline here gave me several choices and you.. the appearance of the Valley. To go from a semi arid, actually a arid dry desert to the sprawling communities all merged into one that we have today is got to be the biggest change that I 've seen.

Dodson: I can imagine that would be true from what you told us

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about being agriculture and this ranches all of which had disappeared now.

Loveridge: There is not many open spaces left in the Valley. I don't fly but when the people tell me they go over the Valley on airplane, you might see a lot here and a lot there. But they just isn't...there isn't any green spots left any more. The few parks that they have.. few and far between when you look down on the Valley. I am going to get up nerve enough one of these days to go over and take a flight. Kind of look it over and see what I've been missing all these years up in the air.

Dodson: You haven't been in a plane?

Loveridge: I've been in a plane but I never taking a fly over the Valley. I've gone on a plane only under very adverse circumstances when I just absolutely had to get in it. I don't like flying.

Dodson: Now we mentioned some other things here possible changes and you said there were several appeared...occurred to you. What of the other that you say represent great changes that you are conscious of?

Loveridge: Well, we already talk about the morality... and that include the drug situation. I can't see or I haven't seen on my personal viewpoint any difference in politics or obviously the living conveniences and mechanization is shown in the overall appearance of the Valley. You can't help it look down on from Mulholland Dr. over the Valley at night and watch the streams and streams of cars on the freeways, headlight and tail light coming and going. It brought up a tremendous economy to our Valley that we didn't have when I was young. I am not sure I like it. I think I like it better when I was kind of sprawly and just a few of us out here. But you can't stop progress, I guess.

Dodson: Do you like all the gadgets we have now in place of what you didn't have then?

Loveridge: Well, it's nice to throw a load of wash in and just put a button and throw in the dryer and you don't have to stand there and cranked the ringer while somebody push the clothes through it. And it's nice to turn the faucet on not have to go out and pump the water out of the well.

Dodson: So the good old days did have some disadvantages?

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Loveridge: My husband accuses me of being much older than I say I am because I Saturday... my Saturday job was cleaning the chimney on the kerosene lantern. We didn't have electricity n't have water. We had none of the... Of course the Valley didn't have water until the Owens River water came in. I don't remember being...ceremonies. I don't know if I even went to those but I remember pumping water out of our well. I had a well in my backyard. When they destroy our home here on Roscoe, my husband went up to the guy who was salvaging the metal of the place and he said "How much do you want for that old well up there? My wife used to pump water out of it when she was a kid". The guy said, "Oh, I don't know. Five bucks." He said "I took it". Ha....

Dodson: Have you rebored the well? Does it function...

Loveridge: No, no. He was a pluming contractor and he hasn't even got any water up to. But it was sitting there over the flower bed that some day we're going to put... he's going to put some water to it. Just fauced in there and make it look like it's coming out of the well. But it's the old pump, just sitting there rusty and we never even painted it. It's just the well the way I remember it sitting there in the well house. Of course, we cooked over gasoline. We have our own gasoline storage tanks on the property that the Standard Oil Company used to deliver to. But as far as the changes in the Valley, It's good. It make a great metropolis out of our area. The biggest city in the country I guess it has been for us.

Dodson: You mentioned a Chinese resident of the Valley that you knew. Has there ever been any sort of racial problem in the Valley with other ethnic groups to your knowledge?

Loveridge: Oh, except for recent times. No, growing up we didn't know what ethnic. I didn't know what the word meant. The Buu [sp?] family, Mr. Buu and his family, the Chinese people lived just West of here. The Bose [sp?], Italian, lived to the East. The Molets [sp?] across the street in the Stuckes[sp?] were Engli^I' +^S^T*had a Polish family of boys down on the corner of Kester..no they lived on the corner of Willis. Their name was Comandy [sp?] and an English family that lived on...across the wash at Columbus. And the whole Mexican-American community of Van Nuys went to school with us. There were Mexican-Americans worked over the they may not have been Mexican-Americans. They may just have been imported Mexicans worked over the ranch.

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They were somebody to play with. Got another kid in the group. That was that much more fun to have on the evening, on summer evening.

Dodson: So you feel that the Valley was free from that sort of tension?

Loveridge: We really didn't have... nobody paid any attention to them. We all go to school.. the same school. You have to get along.

Dodson: So, there was no agitational for minority rights and bussing and all that sort of things that we hear about it now?

Loveridge: There was no bus. We walked to school. Ha....Bad weather mom might get the car and drive us but we walk to school and back.

Dodson: Was there any things in the history of the Valley that has brought you particular satisfaction or particular regret as you looked back on it?

Loveridge: Yes, I think I mentioned being at the ceremonies when Dona Huburd became the principal of Van Nuys High School. My biggest regret and I am sure that old timers as I am in this whole area regret that the demise of the Pacific Electric. It was the greatest rapid transit system that was ever...on this earth.

Dodson: Could you tell us how long does it take to go say from Van Nuys to the subway terminal in Los Angeles?

Loveridge: Oh, from Roscoe and Van Nuys where we usually caught the P.E. it probably was about 45 minutes ride and that was stopping at every stop to pick up passengers. But the cars had to stop for us. We didn't have to wait for the automobiles like the buses do. They didn't have to adhere to traffic on the roads. They had the right of way on the P.E. railway.

Dodson: Do you recall what the fare was?

Loveridge: No, I don't. We went frequently that way opposed to mother driving into the city. Dad working for May Company, we shopped at May Company because we got a 10% discount on everything. So came time to buy school clothes, We all took off for L.A. to go to May Company and buy school clothes and get ready for school opening. But I have no idea what it cost to ride the P.E... I know she used to take all of us from here to

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the subway terminal and then over to the terminal on Main Street.

Dodson: Yes, Sixth and Main.

Loveridge: Sixth and Main and we'd go on Long Beach and go to the Pike on weekend, Saturday or Sunday. It couldn't have been very expensive. Otherwise she couldn't afford to put 7 kids on the street car and take them all that direction.

Dodson: You know, to many people who was new comers here it come as a surprise to know that we once have a subway, even though it was only one mile long.

Loveridge: It's still there.

Dodson: Yes, I know the tunnel is still there.

Loveridge: Sure.

Dodson: I understand that it supposed to be stocked against atomic attacks in case we have a war.

Loveridge: I have heard that but I had never have it proven to me. I have never been able to find any one who knows for sure that there are...there are stocks of water and food stuff in the area.

Dodson: I think we found out during the Cuban Crisis that whoever was in charge of that didn't know exactly what was stocked and where and that sort of thing. But that is the story that is supposed to contain some type of equipment for our survival in case of atomic attack.

Loveridge: Where are they going to put us all? Ha....

Dodson: We haven't gotten around to figuring that one out yet. Of course at the College we have our plans made. We are going to put all of our student down in the tunnel where we have the electric lines and steam pipes and all that sort of thing.

Loveridge: And how many students do you have at the College now?

Dodson: Oh, well, we have.. I am not sure. We have a total enrollment of 25,000 but during the day, I suppose it would be maybe 15,000 something like that.

Loveridge: people are elbow to elbow, isn't it?

Dodson: Well, there of course one or other.. one or two other

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disadvantages. I used to tell my classes that in case of an attack, I would have to ask them to remain in the room while I found out where the entrance to the tunnel was and how to get the key. But I will be back soon or latter. But I told them then that I wouldn't go down there with them because it make me nervous to be in the tunnel with high tension wires and steam pipes and that sort of thing. But I'll wait for them outside.

Loveridge: well, considering...

Dodson: Maybe I shouldn't put this on tape.

Loveridge: Ha....maybe you could wipe it off like some other tapes have been done at one time or other. Ha..... Considering the distance and the heavy traffic on the freeways nowadays, I think I rather go out on the side of the house and crawl under the crawlhole and just lay down on the ground under the house than take a chance on getting to the subway terminal to save myself. I think I have enough dark area under there. I could be safe from any radiation.

Dodson: Well, can you tell us anything about important historic sites in the Valley or buildings or monuments that you think we should know about? that the future might want to investigate.

Loveridge: Well, I've made a list here and I am sure that other people have told you...once obvious the San Fernando Mission and Memory Gardens and Campo De Cahuenga and what they call it now, Los Encinos Historic Park. I have two favorites, one was the statue of Amelia Earhart in North Hollywood Park. It's a recent acquisition comparatively.

Dodson: She lived here in the Valley, didn't she?

Loveridge: Sure did. She was a Valley resident. She was almost as well loved locally as Lindbergh was nationally. She was long way ahead of her time and fantastic woman I understand. I never met her personally, I saw her take off from Van Nuys Airport a couple of times. That was another recreation we used to do. Go over to the Airport and watch them make movies. Ha..stunt.. stunt pilot and such. And I think the one structure of the two that I am very fond of that sticks in my memory is the Sepulveda tunnel under Mulholland Dr.. We all now go flying up the freeway on ...The San Diego Freeway heading for Westwood or wherever. But as a kid, they bored through the mountain under Mulholland and built

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a tunnel on what was then a two-lane dirt road over Sepulveda Pass. And this was our link with the other side without having to go into Hollywood and out either Sunset or Santa Monica Blvd. to get to the beach. And they had a big parade of cars from the west.. from the Valley area and the West Los Angeles area. And we all met in the middle of the tunnel. And that was the only paved stretch of the whole road from Ventura Blvd. to Sunset was the length of the tunnel was all paved cement. They had a big ceremony and a ribbon cutting ceremony and all the cars were all decorated. Model A Fords you know. We had a fancy touring car. Everybody was having.. It was just...just a big day. And I tell people that there is a tunnel under the hill up there now that are new to the area like Karen is here. Karen, am I right? And was it a tunnel? I don't go through no tunnel and I go over the pass. Well, I said "One of these days, take old Sepulveda Blvd." I said "you will come to the tunnel when you get up to the top of the pass. That is kind of curvy get up there it's real curvy. Going down is a four lanes highway now. That is.. that was in... that was in an historical time to cut through that mountain and make a pass over the Valley. And of course the other one is our Van Nuys City Hall, our very own city hall, which stuck up like a sore thumb all over the Valley for many years because there wasn't anything between here and there. And that was just after the '33 Earthquake when it was dedicated. Our honorary mayor in Van Nuys in those days was Andy Devine. And he had the most beautiful wife. She has... she is still a beautiful woman. They lived down on Kester and he was the principal speaker and he cut the ribbon that day. And I don't think there was anybody within 10 miles of Van Nuys that wasn't there that day. Standing down on Sylvan Street to watch this tower be dedicated. And people look at it and say "It should be torn down. It's taking up too much space. They're not utilizing the land properly". Comes the day that they start talking about tearing City Hall in Van Nuys, there's going to be a lot of people like me who were there the day it was dedicated, was going to be there with clubs and axes. This will be Carry Nation of our day protecting our city hall. Because this is a.. an historical site that should be so designated, as far as I'm concerned. So completely surrounded by modernistic buildings. It still should stay there.

Dodson: I think there is much reluctance now to tear old building down than they used to be. I think there usually is quite a bit of public opposition anything like that.

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Loveridge: I would hope so because they torned down too many already. There's been too much destruction of history in our city.

Dodson: Can you think of any historic houses that are still standing in the Valley?

Loveridge: No, I racked my brain this last week or two since I talk to you first on the phone. I can't come up with any particular house that I can recall. The one historic building that I am very fond of, which is now set in on a ... Aced Cemetery is the old Community Methodist Church from Chatworth. They picked it up from its foundation on Topanga Canyon Blvd. and very cautiously totted on the rig up to the cemetery several years ago, renovated it and put it back into its natural, original state.

Dodson: Where exactly is that, Mrs. Loveridge?

Loveridge: Aced Memorial Park is at the extreme West end of the Valley off Plummer Street west of Topanga Canyon...

Dodson: I think I've been there. There is a small church there. That's the one that you are talking about?

Loveridge: Yes, and originally it was over on Topanga Canyon Blvd. The people of Chatworth literally sat at a sit-in to keep it from being destroyed. At the time that they finally raised by the community effort, raised enough funds to have it moved over to cemetery. And the cemetery accepted it as an historical monument. Aced has been there ever since I can remember.

Dodson: That's the name of the cemetery, Aced?

Loveridge: That's where one sister that we lost since.. she was a young girl. And my parents are bury. It was outside of the Valhalla which is over at the end of Burbank Airport Lockheed. That was the only cemetery in the Valley for many, many years, Valhalla and Aced. It was a beautiful setting out among the rocks in the Chatworth Hills. Always fresh clean air out there, always a breeze blowing. They put the church up on the hill so that when you come in through the gates of the cemetery, you can see the church from just about any place in there. The park... you have to call it a park. It's a beautiful place, a peaceful place.

Dodson: Do you happen to know if any of our pioneer families are buried in Aced Cemetery? I wonder about the Lankershim and Van Nuys families, Whitsetts and so on.

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Loveridge: I.. I am not aware of any.. I would guess, strictly a guess that Mr. Whitsett is buried in Forest Lawn. There is some place in the deep recessed of my mind when he passed away being the original Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale. I maybe wrong but that's to the best of my knowledge. We were on the wrong side of the tracks from the Whitsetts and the Lankershims. We know Mr. whitsetts, naturally everybody in town knew Mr. Whitsett. He was a very distinguish man, drove a hard bargain. My dad attested to that. He purchased his land from him originally. But as far as knowing him personally as a family situation, they know the Lankershims, know the Beachams [sp?] up on Valerio Street [sp?]. That.. that might.. I am not sure the Beacham homestead may still be there on Valerio Street. You're talking about historical homes or old homes. I haven't driven down Valerio so many years I don't know wherether it still there or not.

Dodson: What would be its approximate location if you happen to remember?

Loveridge: Some where between Havenhurst [sp?] and Woodman, on Valerio and it would be on the south side of the street. And I.. the last I knew, oh what his name Perry Beaton [sp?] would still alive. I am sure that the older people are gone. State Hurt [sp?] is still in the area. I have never kept in touch with him. I didn't know him. He was quite a bit older than I was. But I... That home may still very well be there. I don't know.

Dodson: Do you know any historic structures that you could mention for us?

Loveridge: No, I..I don't recall any other once at all. Probably if I was driving around the Valley, I see one that I should told Dr. Dodson about. Just going through my memory is a blank when it come to something like that.

Dodson: Now, we have asked you some questions based on what we have down here, do you think of anything that we haven't asked about that you think it should record for the future?

Loveridge: Oh well, ha... not really. I think history was made in our Valley airwise. Airplanes...There was awful lot, a tremendous amount of dare devils. who took upon themselves to test fly for Lockheed and for independence who had long since gone out of business. Our little Van Nuys Airport which was nothing but a dirt running strip has grown into one of the largest

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airports in the country.

Dodson: I am aware that it is one of the largest.

Loveridge: I can't believe the tremendous amount of traffic that comes in over our son's house on weekends when we are up there. They lived north of the Airport. And interrupted every three minutes with somebody's private jet coming in or somebody plane's landed in your living room which happened a couple weeks ago. But they didn't quite make it. But that plus the growth of the Valley, the economic growth. It amazes me the General Motors plant, the tremendous growth that Lockheed plant has had over the years, which has been the backbone of the Valley. And of course the space industry, subcontract.

Dodson: Aha.

Loveridge: And the testing of rocket engines out at Chatworth. You hear a tremendous rumble all of a sudden and say "They are at it again. They are going up to the moon one of these day". Everybody would laugh, "Sure they are". Ha... this is to me as I looked back in retrospect how much I have seen history in the making, in just a such short span of time. Comparatively speaking. Going back to a hundred and fifty years before I was born. What had happen in the fifty four since I have been here.

Dodson: You see such a terrific change in that way.

Loveridge: Such a fast pace of change. Who ever when was in grade school that I be driving across the desert, looking at the moon and listening to the man say, "I am going to step out for a little while on the surface of the moon." And I am looking up at the moon and say, "He aint up there".

Dodson: Thank you very much Mrs. Loveridge for your interview.